

BU
File 5
Dear Senator Jackson:

32 137

AKA/ECA
B.D
R

Thank you for your letter of August 3 concerning the human rights situation in Argentina.

August 17, 1978

The Department is deeply concerned about human rights in Argentina. President Carter discussed this issue with Argentine President Videla in September and Secretary Vance raised this question when he visited Argentina in November 1977. Recently, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Newsom visited Argentina and again made known our concern over human rights, as have Assistant Secretaries Terence Todman and Patricia Derian.

In addition, both our Embassy and the Department are in frequent contact with officials of the Argentine Government on this issue. Inquiries on hundreds of cases of disappeared and detained people have been presented by our Embassy to the Argentine Government.

Moreover, the U.S. has taken a number of measures to make it very clear to the Argentines how strongly we feel about human rights. Since October 1977, most Argentine arms requests have been held back, grant military training has not been provided, F.M.S. credits have not been made available, negative votes have been cast on Argentine loan requests in international financial institutions and approval of Export-Import Bank transactions for Argentina are currently being held back.

The Argentines are very much aware of the importance which the U.S. attaches to human rights. We will continue to press for improvements in the situation there.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned.

The Honorable
Henry M. Jackson,
United States Senate.

Drafted:ARA/ECA:JNBumpus:af Clearances:ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann
8/15/1978 x29166

ARA:GLister
H:CCutter

#123-1526

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

81F93

50/52